Instructions for Dairy Survey

The following is intended to answer various questions you may have regarding completion of the survey form. If you have further questions, please call any of the organizations listed on the cover letter.

1. If your dairy was in operation before November 27, 1984, retention ponds and manured areas must be protected from inundation or washout by overflow from any stream channel during 20-year peak stream flows. Facilities, or portions thereof, which began operating after November 27, 1984, shall be protected against 100-year peak stream flows. Existing facilities that were in operation on-or-before November 27, 1984, and that are protected against 100-year peak stream flows must continue to provide such protection. Your Resource Conservation District or Natural Resources Conservation Service should be able to provide assistance in this with rainfall information*. (The 1995 flood elevation is approximately the 20-year peak stream flow for the Eel River Delta)*

2. Animals at a confined facility (concentrated in corrals where feeding is by means other than grazing) shall be prevented from entering any surface water within the confined area. For those areas outside a corral, animals should not be allowed to congregate in surface waters, which would cause them to become polluted.

3. Confined animal facilities shall be designed and constructed to retain all facility wastewater generated, together with all precipitation on, and drainage through, manured areas during a 25-year, 24 storm event. Therefore, to the extent possible, all unpolluted stormwater runoff should be diverted away from the ponds and manured areas. This includes land areas as well as runoff from buildings. *(A 25-year, 24-hour storm event is approximately 5 inches of rainfall in the Eel River Delta.)*

4. Waste storage ponds and containment facilities should be designed and operated to accommodate the wastewater flow and rainfall that is likely to accumulate in the wettest winter (Nov. – April) that may occur in a twenty-five year period. (*A 25-year return period is approximately 60 inches of rain over the course of 1 year in the Eel River Delta.*)

5. To help determine the size necessary for the retention ponds, decisions should be based on:
    a. Maintaining a freeboard (2 ft minimum)
    b. Volume of precipitation on the pond surface from a 25-year, 24-hour storm event
    c. Volume of runoff from the contributory area caused by a 25-year, 24-hour storm event
    d. Volume of runoff from the contributory area accumulated during the storage period from a 25-year return period
    e. Volume of precipitation on the pond surface accumulated during the storage period from a 25-year return period

    f.   Volume of manure, clean water, and wastewater accumulated during the storage period

    g.   Volume of accumulated solids for period between solids removal

6. Retention ponds shall be lined with, or underlain by, soils which contain at least 10 percent clay and not more than 10 percent gravel or artificial materials of equivalent impermeability. Also, manure-removal methods should prevent pond seals from being broken.

7. Along with the survey form, please provide a facility plan or sketch showing the following:

    a.   Buildings, structures, corrals, ponds, and their approximate dimensions.

    b.   Wells on the property, both domestic and irrigation. If known, indicate size and depth of wells.

    c.   Acres of crop and pastureland located at the dairy. Indicate those areas that receive application of manure.

    d.   Location of pipes, sumps, ditches or dikes involved in moving wastewater to the disposal areas.

8. Provide any other items you feel would be helpful in letting the Regional Water Board staff better understand the problems associated with your particular operation. These may pertain to high water tables, steep hills, unique flood problems or high rainfall areas.

Your help in completing this survey form is appreciated. Again, any questions regarding this form should be directed to the organizations listed on the cover letter.

(surveyin.doc)